Koenings' Reeded Edge Half Newsletter #28

August 15, 2021

Dear Reeded Edge Half Collector:

Most of you indicated an interest in Reeded Edge Halves when you purchased my book "REEDED EDGE HALF DOLLARS 1836 TO 1839, R-4 to R-8 DIE VARIETIES". Others were added to my list of interested collectors after I announced my "38 Most Common Die Marriages" would be emailed once a month, starting in August 2019 at the ANA Coin Show in Chicago. I am now encouraging Liberty Seated Coin Club Members to join in the hunt.

My intention is to educate collectors further in the study of Reeded Edge Halves. I will continue to report such topics as follows:

1. The 38 Most Common Die Marriages (started August, 2019 on a monthly basis).

2. The results of recent auction sales of R-4 and rarer die marriages.

3. Have photos of interesting die stages.

4. Plan to have a 2nd Reeded Edge Half Dollar Census by November, 2021.

38 Most Common Die Marriages (continued)

In July 15, 2021's Newsletter #27, I presented information and photos on the 1838 GR-2 die marriage. Next on the list is the 1838 GR-3 die marriage. Since 1838 GR-2 and GR-3, both use the same reverse, it is important that you be able to eliminate the 1838 GR-3 later die stages.

1838 GR-3

The 1838 GR-3 die marriage is common and rated R-2 (501 to 1,000 known). It is composed of Obverse 3 (first and only use) and Reverse B (the 2nd use) . Graham lists a census of 66, 64, 64, 64, 62, 62, 61, 58, 58, 55, 55 and 55, published in 2012. In my Reeded Edge Half Dollar Census, reported in Newsletter #26, June 2021, I had 64, 63, 58, 53, 53, 50, 50, 45, 45, 45, 45, 40, 40, 35, 6 and 4 that were reported by JRCS, LSCC, Bust Half Nut members and others.

1838 GR-3 PCGS MS62 Obverse with circles (Courtesy of Heritage)

1838 GR-2 and GR-3 both use the same reverse die. In the above 1838 GR-3 obverse photo the inside width of the top loop of the 8 (circled) is wider than the space between 183 and 8 (2nd circle). On the 1838 GR-2 obverse the inside width of the top loop of the 8 is less than the space between 183 and 8.

On the next 2 pages, you will see an 1838 GR-3, Middle Die Stage and an 1838 GR-3, Late Die Stage. Although all 3 die stages have a crack connecting the tops of LF in HALF, it appears all 1838 GR-2 reverses have been lapped between uses of 1838 GR-3. Thus the build up under TED S will not be seen on 1838 GR-3 , MDS or LDS.

1838 GR-3 PCGS MS64 Reverse Middle Die Stage with circle (Courtesy of Heritage)

The above photo shows a crack from the rim to the tip of the lowest olive leaf (see circle). The M is partially filled in center.

1838 GR-3 NGC MS64 Reverse Late Die Stage with Ellipse (Courtesy of Heritage)

The above photo shows the crack from the rim to the lowest olive leaf now continuing up the Eagle's leg to a point level with the center of the shield and continuing across the entire shield (see ellipse).

NOW THAT I HAVE SAID THAT,

John D. of Chicago and I have found a specimen that appears to have the Late Die Stage of GR-3 reverse with an 1838 GR-2 obverse.

The Mint has been known to re-use dies for a 2nd and 3rd time. When I studied Capped Bust Dimes and Capped Bust Half Dimes during the 1990's, I found in "Early United States Dimes, 1796-1837" where the authors reported 1835 JR-7 as the first use of a reverse die, 1836 JR-2 as the second use and 1835 JR-9 as the third use.

More research needs to be done on the possibility of later uses of dies on Reeded Edge Halves.

Next month, September 15, 2021, in Newsletter #29, I will present information and large photos of the 1838 GR-4 die marriage.

Commentary

I recently learned that Dick Graham has presented David Kahn with approximately 100 Reeded Edge Halves that he will be offering at the Chicago ANA Coin Show.

Perhaps several of you may have picked up several specimens to improve your collection. Although Dick's census will be removed from the 2021 Final Reeded Edge Census, the grades will still be counted in the final totals.

Additional Commentary

On August 17, 2021, StacksBowers will auction several high grade Reeded Edge Halves as follows:

1. Lot 3161, 1837 GR-1 in PCGS MS63
2. Lot 3162, 1837 GR-5 in PCGS MS64
3. Lot 3163, 1837 GR-5 in PCGS MS62
4. Lot 3164, 1837 GR-9 in PCGS MS61
5. Lot 3165, 1837 GR-12 in ICG MS63
6. Lot 3166, 1837 GR-15 in PCGS MS63
7. Lot 3167, 1837 GR-17 in NGC MS64
8. Lot 3168, 1837 GR-20 in PCGS MS63
9. Lot 3169, 1837 GR-23 in PCGS MS61
10. Lot 3170, 1838 GR-2 in PCGS MS63
11. Lot 3171, 1838 GR-6 in PCGS AU58
12. Lot 3172, 1838 GR-15 in PCGS MS62
13. Lot 3173, 1839-O GR-1 in PCGS AU53

Someone will pick up some very important coins in this StacksBowers Auction.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT AUCTION

On August 18-22, 2021, Heritage will auction the following important coins:

1. Lot 3815, 1837 GR-8, R-4, PCGS MS64 CAC
2. Lot 3816, 1837 GR-19, R-3, PCGS MS64
3. Lot 3817, 1838 GR-5, R-6+, PCGS VF-25

All 3 of these coins are extremely important. The 1837 GR-8 is easily in the Top 5, the 1837 GR-19 is important since Graham did not show a census for this die marriage and MS64 may be the finest known. The 1838 GR-5, unless there is a 2nd known VF-25, this may be one of approximately 16 known. This is the first time I have seen a photo of an 1838 GR-5 in VF-25.

Who Will Be the Next Jules Reiver or Dick Graham?

When Jules Reiver did his Variety Identification Manual (VIM) on Reeded Edge Halves in 1988, he acknowledged that it was a Preliminary Work. Even though Dick Graham studied Reeded Edge Halves for at least 15 years before writing his book in 2012, he still acknowledges that more study needs to be done.

I officially started collecting Reeded Edge Halves in November 2009. Since then I have accumulated photos and information on the Top 18 Reeded Edge Halves (all R-4 and rarer). As I am fast approaching my 80th birthday, it becomes obvious to me, that I should share this information with future scholars.

It does not matter if they are members of John Reich Collectors Society or of the Liberty Seated Coin Club. I am looking for someone in their late 20's to late 40's.

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JRCS

I strongly recommend that all collectors join JRCS. JRCS publishes its J R Journal normally about 3 times a year. There is so much you can learn from the many articles that are published, including New Discoveries, Census Information on early silver issues, mint processes, die stage information and more. Membership is just $25 per year. Anyone interested may contact W. David Perkins at wdperki@attglobal.net .

LSCC

I also strongly recommend that collectors interested in Liberty Seated Coins join LSCC. LSCC publishes it's Gobrecht Journal 3 times a year by Bill Bugert. They also have their E-Gobrecht Monthly Newsletter that is published by Paul Kluth. Membership is just $25 per year. Anyone interested may contact Jeff Ball at **jeffballphoto@gmail.com** **.**